

A Ceremony
Unveiling the Portrait
of
**THE HONORABLE
K. MICHAEL CONAWAY**



Tuesday, September 15, 2020
1300 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C.

COMMITTEE PRINT

A Ceremony
Unveiling the Portrait
of
THE HONORABLE
K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

*A Representative in Congress from the State of Texas
January 3, 2005–Present*

*Elected to the 109th Congress
Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture
One Hundred Fourteenth through One Hundred Fifteenth Congresses*



PROCEEDINGS
before the
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

*U.S. House of Representatives
September 15, 2020*

U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 2020

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U.S. House of Representatives

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The Honorable K. Michael Conaway

Congressman K. Michael Conaway was elected to serve in Congress in November of 2004 and was sworn in as the Representative for the 11th District of Texas in January of 2005. Over the course of his eight terms in Congress, Conaway became a respected Member of Congress and earned his reputation as a “conservative voice of reason” in Washington.

Born in Borger, Texas and raised in Odessa, Texas, Conaway’s childhood consisted of experiences shared by many of those growing up in West Texas. He enjoyed hunting, playing sports, and participating in activities with the Boy Scouts. His first experience with organized sports came when he joined the school football team in the fourth grade. Conaway continued playing the sport through his senior year in high school when his team won the Odessa Permian Panther’s first Texas State Championship game in 1965.

He married his high school sweetheart, Julie Flannagan, in 1968. They went to East Texas State University (ETSU) in Commerce, Texas together, graduating in 1970. While at ETSU, Conaway played football, was a member of Delta Sigma Pi fraternity, and ultimately graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration. Conaway and Julie would go on to have two wonderful boys.

In 1970, he was drafted into the U.S. Army where he served at Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas. Conaway served with the 256th Military Police Company at Fort Hood and was honorably discharged from the military after attaining the rank of E-5.

Conaway became a Texas Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in 1974 and maintained his certification through most of his time in Congress. He went to work at Price Waterhouse & Co., spending four years on the audit staff and more than four years on the tax staff. In 1979, he and his family moved to Midland, Texas to open the Midland tax practice for Price Waterhouse & Co.

Conaway joined George W. Bush’s oil company, Bush Exploration, as the Chief Financial Officer in 1982. Through this experience, he formed a lifelong friendship with George W. Bush, who would later go on to become Governor of Texas and eventually the President of the United States. While working for Bush, Julie was diagnosed with leukemia. During her treatment, Bush was incredibly supportive of their family, including taking their boys to a basketball game and encouraging Conaway to take time off to care for his family. After a titanic battle, Julie tragically passed away from acute lymphocytic leukemia in 1987. Through this period, God’s love and support were with the Conaway family.

With his two sons attending school in Midland, Conaway was motivated to run for school board and was elected to serve on the Midland Independent School Board from 1985–1988.

Conaway met Suzanne Kidwell in 1990, through mutual friends at the First Baptist Church in Midland. Suzanne had two daughters with Randy Kidwell, who was tragically killed in a plane crash. The two quickly became inseparable, and married in 1991, blending together their own “Brady Bunch” family.

Soon after Bush became the governor of Texas, he tapped Conaway to serve on the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy

(TSBPA) in 1995. Conaway volunteered on the board for seven and a half years, including five and a half as Chairman. During his tenure with TSBPA, he signed the board order revoking the license of the accounting firm involved in the Enron Corporation scandal.

His work on in TSBPA resulted in him becoming involved in the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA), on which he served as the Chair in 2002 and 2003. It was through his friendship with George W. Bush and his positions on TSBPA and NASBA that Conaway became interested in running for Congress.

Conaway's background as a CPA defined much of his work in Congress. He authored the "No New Programs" legislation to force Congress to offset the cost of creating any new program with the elimination of an existing program of equal or greater cost. This idea was eventually incorporated into the House Rules at the start of the 112th Congress. Thanks to Conaway's efforts, the House now holds all legislation to this standard.

Throughout his 16 years in Congress, Conaway pursued active leadership roles, including as a Deputy Republican Whip. He served all sixteen years as a Member of both the House Agriculture Committee and the House Armed Services Committee. Conaway was selected as a Member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, where he served for twelve years. He also served six years on the House Ethics Committee and four years on the House Budget Committee.

Conaway's first Chairmanship in the U.S. House was during the 113th Congress, when he served as Chairman of the House Ethics Committee. He went on to serve as Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee for the 114th and 115th Congresses, and Ranking Member for the 116th Congress.

His commitment to fiscal responsibility extended to his membership on the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC), where he served as the Chairman of the three-Member NRCC Audit Committee in 2007. Within a year, he uncovered a fraud that involved hundreds of thousands of dollars in stolen funds. Conaway held his position as Chairman of the Audit Committee throughout the remainder of his tenure in Congress.

As a Member of the Intelligence and Armed Services Committees, Conaway made auditability of the Department of Defense (DoD) and the intelligence community a top priority. In 2010, Ike Skelton (D-MO), then Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, asked Conaway to lead the charge on DoD auditability. Conaway later served as Chairman of the Panel on Defense Financial Management and Auditability Reform in the 112th Congress. His leadership resulted in the creation of a report on the processes and procedures for a DoD audit, which formed the foundation for DoD's audit process today. His vigorous oversight on this issue spanning many years resulted in DoD completing their first ever audit in 2018.

During the 2017 House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election, House Speaker Paul Ryan tapped Conaway to lead the investigation after Chairman Nunes recused himself. He went on to run the year-long investigation and authored the House Intelligence Report

on Russian Active Measures that was eventually made public in 2018.

Conaway's membership on the House Agriculture Committee allowed him to advocate for farmers, ranchers, consumers, and rural communities. His conservative values drove his commitment to enacting sound farm policies that protect both food and fiber producers and taxpayer dollars. He was instrumental in passing the 2008 and 2014 farm bills, including serving as Chairman of the Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management throughout the development of the 2014 Farm Bill.

In his capacity as Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, Conaway led the effort to develop and enact the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (also known as the 2018 Farm Bill) on time. This effort involved holding over 100 committee and subcommittee hearings, including 20 hearings on the federal food stamp program, along with holding several listening sessions around the country. The 2018 Farm Bill was signed by President Trump on December 20, 2018, the first farm bill since 1990 to be signed into law in the same calendar year in which it was introduced. The conference report passed with 87 votes in the Senate and 369 votes in the House, amongst the largest vote margins for any farm bill reauthorization in history.

Conaway prioritized legislation to benefit the 11th District throughout his tenure. A proud representative of the Permian Basin, Conaway sponsored legislation to lift the oil export ban and was instrumental in overturning the ban in 2015. The Permian Basin is now leading the way in oil production, with the United States exporting more oil than it imports for the first time since records began in 1949.

In 2019, President Trump signed into law a bill sponsored by Congressman Conaway to rename the Odessa VA Clinic to the "Wilson and Young Medal of Honor VA Clinic" to honor the lives of two Odessa heroes. Conaway also worked to preserve the Midland home of the Bush family as a national landmark and was successful in renaming the U.S. courthouse in Midland, Texas, to the "George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush United States Courthouse and George Mahon Federal Building."

The Conaways still call Texas home, and consider themselves the blessed grandparents to seven grandchildren.

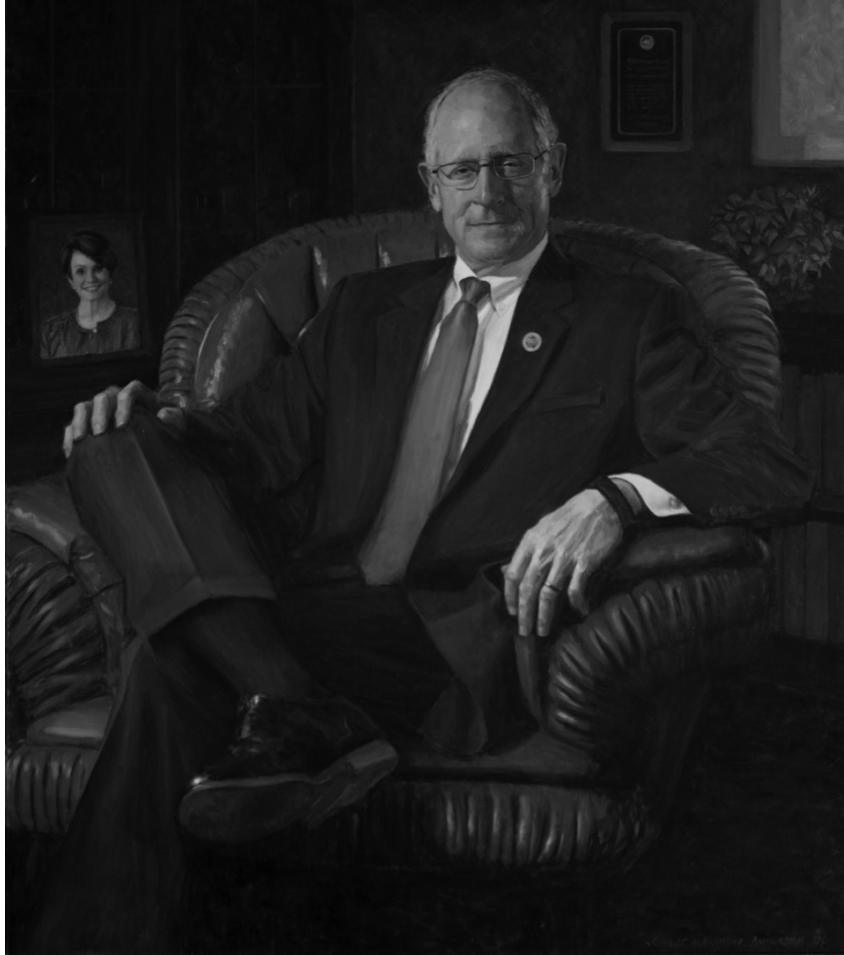
ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born and raised in Michigan, Robert Anderson was educated at Yale University and the Boston School of the Museum of Fine Arts. His tours of duty in the U.S. Navy included Vietnam combat service with the Mobile Riverine Force in the Mekong Delta. His studio is on the south coast of Massachusetts.

In addition to painting privately commissioned portraits since 1973, for fifteen years Mr. Anderson was illustrator for the John H. Breck Company. His pastel portraits appeared in Breck Shampoo print advertising and in commercials on American and Canadian network television. As spokesman for Breck, he appeared on numerous local and network television news programs and talk shows, including CNN's "Take Two" and ABC's "Entertainment Tonight". Between 1984 and 1989 he was under contract with the United States Postal Service to execute portraits for a number of U.S. postage stamps in the Great Americans Series. Issues include stamps honoring John Harvard, after whom Harvard University is named, Red Cloud, celebrated chief of the Oglala Sioux Nation, and the famous Hunkpapa Sioux Chief Sitting Bull.

Notable commissions include the official portraits of former Massachusetts governors, William F. Weld and Edward J. King, former Yale chaplain and SANE/FREEZE president, William Sloane Coffin, and a double portrait of former MIT President and Mrs. Paul Gray. In 2002 President George W. Bush selected Mr. Anderson to paint his portrait for the Yale Club of New York City. Mr. Anderson's portrait of Former Massachusetts Senator Edward W. Brooke was chosen by the Senator to appear on the jacket cover of his autobiography, *Bridging the Divide—My Life—Senator Edward W. Brooke*.

Mr. Anderson was selected by The White House to paint the official portrait of President George W. Bush for the National Portrait Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. It was unveiled on December 19, 2008. His portrait of former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan was unveiled at the Federal Reserve Board headquarters in Washington, DC in August of 2010. His portrait of former Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge was unveiled in May of 2013, and one of former Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff was unveiled in March of 2014, both in Washington, D.C. Mr. Anderson's portrait of former Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner was recently unveiled at the U.S. Department of the Treasury and a second portrait now hangs at The Federal Reserve Bank of New York.



ARTIST: ROBERT ANDERSON

THE HONORABLE K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

Agriculture Committee Chairman, 114th - 115th Congress

P R O G R A M

WELCOME

*The Honorable Collin C. Peterson
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture*

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

The Honorable John Boozman

INVOCATION

The Honorable Tim Walberg

REMARKS

*The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary, United States Department of Agriculture
The Honorable John Boozman*

UNVEILING THE PORTRAIT

The Honorable K. Michael Conaway and Suzanne Conaway

REMARKS

*The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives*

ADDRESS

The Honorable K. Michael Conaway

The Unveiling and Presentation of the Official Portrait of
THE HONORABLE K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Washington, D.C.

The ceremony began at 3:30 p.m. in Room 1300, Longworth House Office Building.

WELCOME BY THE HONORABLE COLLIN C. PETERSON

The CHAIRMAN. On behalf of the House Agriculture Committee, I want to welcome all of you here today to this wonderful room here on the third floor of the Longworth building. And we are going to have people watching virtually, apparently, we got that streaming going.

I want to say congratulations to Mike on this rite of passage. We look forward to having Mike keeping an eye on us from above the fireplace and making sure that we don't do anything too out of line in the future, so we are looking forward to that.

And I was going to peek, but I didn't, Mike. I said, well, do you think I can go in there and look? And they said, well, you are the Chairman. You could probably do whatever you want. I said, well, I think I will wait. But anyway, I want to be surprised like everybody else.

We got a farm bill done together. It wasn't easy, but we worked through it. And it takes an awful commitment, as you know, and dedication and working with a lot of people that you necessarily wouldn't work with to get that done. And so, Mike, we appreciate that good outcome and all your hard work.

And as some of you have been through this a number of times, it is hard to overstate the amount of time and stress and investment that you put into doing a farm bill. You know, I remember when I did the first one, when I was Chairman, I tell you what, I didn't think I would survive. It is a tough process.

Being chair, especially during a farm bill, takes over your schedule, consumes all your time, and blocks out many other things that you would want to accomplish. But at the end of it all, you have a product that is hopefully good policy and makes the lives of farmers and ranchers and others in America better. Suzanne and Mike's kids and

grandkids have our thanks for their sacrifices and for sharing Mike with us for all of these years.

I want to say, congratulations, Mike, again, on your service, and your time as Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, and all the best to you and Suzanne and your further endeavors. And we will look forward to you looking over us in the future.

With that, I am going to turn this over to the master of ceremonies, The Honorable Mr. Boozman from Arkansas.

[Applause.]

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE JOHN BOOZMAN

Master of Ceremonies

Mr. BOOZMAN. Thank you, all.

And thank you, Collin, for being such a great partner to Mike and getting so much done for our agriculture community.

You know, as we look here, we have got the who's who of the leaders in the ag world and then also the movers and shakers in the House, and Senator Roberts is here. Again, we just appreciate the fact that so many are here. And I think we are live streaming to Texas, which is a big deal.

I want to thank the U.S. Capitol Historical Society for their work in allowing the Chairman Mike Conaway Portrait Fund to be part of the managed section by the Historical Society. We appreciate them.

I will say a few more things about Mike in a little bit. You say, well, what are you doing up here, John? And then, first of all, I miss you guys. But the other thing is, Mike and I had the pleasure to serve for 8 years in the House, and I appreciate his friendship and example in so many different ways, he and Suzanne.

Let's have the opening prayer. I think Tim, Congressman Walberg is going to come and do that for us.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Tim Walberg

Mr. WALBERG. Thank you, John. It is good to have you back.

And, Mike, thank you. Knowing the man of faith that you are, that it is a commitment, it is not just a religion. I appreciate the opportunity to pray.

Our Father, God, what a privilege it is to come to the Creator of all things, the Creator of this good Earth, the Creator as You designed it. You put man and woman on this Earth, and You said, tend it, tend everything about it, the fruits, the vegetables, the seed-bearing plants, the animals, because it is good. It is very good. You said that about Your creation.

And so today to honor a man who honored Your creation in his service to this great country, who serves on this Agriculture Committee, who chaired it, who went through all, as Collin has said, the exactions as well as frustrations of farm bills and yet did it in a way that was good.

We thank You for his service. We thank You for his commitment to You, commitment to the fact that all things come from the Earth, the Earth that You have made, and took it seriously to do it for the people of this country as well as his great State and district.

God, I pray that You bless him and his dear family in the days ahead with, not only memories, but experiences that redound for the future, and allow him to continue to do the things that promote the productivity of this good Earth that You have given to us to be stewards of. And it is in the name of Jesus, my Savior, I pray. Amen.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Now, next we are going to have the Secretary of Agriculture come up and say some things. We appreciate the Secretary so much for all of his great work. He is in a very difficult position, as so many in leadership positions like this, really handling a very difficult situation where we are all working together for the benefit of the American public.

So, Sonny, if you will come up.

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE SONNY PERDUE

SECRETARY, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Secretary PERDUE. Thank you, Senator.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Thank you.

[Applause.]

Secretary PERDUE. I am just honored to be here. I didn't know you all let the executive branch participate in these, so thank you very much. And it is a delight to be here, Madam Speaker, Leader, and to all of you. And we are honored to speak about our friend.

The Secretary of Agriculture is a Cabinet position. I don't think I am really qualified for it or any others, but I can tell you, I have been blessed to serve under two different House chairmen, and both have been delightful to work with and in the farm bill and creating that and implementation of it.

I take pride in the fact that the Agriculture Committees on both sides really are probably the least partisan, really most agriculturally oriented, which is very important in this country. I take much pleasure and delight in that, having served with both.

I know it is Mike's day. And, Mike, I want to tell you what a privilege it was to have you as the first Chairman under which I stepped into this role and how meaningful that was.

I think the most meaningful thing in the State, I came from both the legislative and the executive branches, and I am a big believer in

representative government and the three branches of government. And I think when I really began to admire Mike Conaway was my visit to his district, and it was after Hurricane Harvey, and times were not really good there in that part of Texas.

But as I went to Mike's district and was hosted by Suzanne in their home, it was obvious that Mike was revered in his district. I think that is the best compliment you can have among your constituents, and the best honor you can have is to be revered in your own district by the people you represent. That is really what representative democracy is all about.

And I can assure you that is when I came to understand that Mike Conaway was not only a man of integrity, faith, and action up here, but he brought that same spirit of public servant, and leader there to his district. And from a constituent service standpoint, I can assure you I heard from him as well in the best spirit of representative democracy.

Suzanne, I did have—I have got a little homework assignment, though, for you. I remember when we had the—announcing the beef into China for the first time in several years, I sent Mike an emoji. It had a cow and a clap and a prayer and a thumbs up. And he said, what is that for? So I think you need to go back to emoji school there a little bit, Mike, when you get home and learn about all this new conversation ability we have got with our iPhones to understand what we are trying to say.

But, nonetheless, I know you were a big supporter in that, as many other things. And I hope we have done you and Collin proud in the implementation of the farm bill across the way. As I said, I fully recognize and respect the role of the Legislative Branch. As an executive, unelected appointed member, I respect very much the work that you do, and it has been a real honor to do that.

I think the other thing that I saw in Mike Conaway's district was his most important constituency, and that was in his home, the relationship that he had with his family. And after all, folks, that is what it is really all about. The most important constituencies we have is that small circle that see us when the curtains are closed and the lights are turned off, and that is the kind of reputation Mike Conaway brought from home, from his Texas district, here to the House, and I have not seen that impugned in any way.

So, Mike, congratulations. Thank you very much. It has been an honor to serve with you. Thank you, all.

[Applause.]

Mr. BOOZMAN. Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

Mike, you need to get with an 8-year-old kid to kind of fill you in on what is going on these days.

Let me just say that, as I said earlier, I had the opportunity to serve with Mike for 8 years. I immediately became friends with him. Cathy, my wife, became friends with Suzanne. And I was drawn to him.

You know, the nice thing about the House—you know, people ask me, what is the difference between the Senate and the House? You know, I think there is just a tremendous amount of camaraderie, and you have got all different friends on both sides and this and that, and that is really a nice thing.

But I was drawn to him not because he immediately, you know, was becoming a very effective legislator, that was nice, but really because of the way he lived his life. He loved his family, he loved his friends, he loved the Lord. As the Secretary said, you know, took care of his State, his district. And so for all of those different reasons, being a true public servant and just being a friend to so many of us. So we do appreciate you guys so, so very much.

I want to recognize Robert Anderson. He is the gentleman that painted this. And we are very anxious to see what it looks like. He is not here today, but we want to give him a big shout-out. The Speaker here is helping me, which I very much appreciate.

I guess we would like to do the unveiling then. So come on up and let's see what this looks like.

**UNVEILING OF THE PORTRAIT BY THE HONORABLE K.
MICHAEL CONAWAY AND MRS. SUZANNE CONAWAY**

Mrs. CONAWAY. I have one job. So I have to figure this out. Oh, it is not working. I am kidding.

Representative CONAWAY. Okay.

[Portrait unveiling.]

[Applause.]

Mr. BOOZMAN. Now we are going to hear from Kevin McCarthy.

Kevin.

[Applause.]

**REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE KEVIN MCCARTHY
REPUBLICAN LEADER, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Republican Leader MCCARTHY. Thank you, Senator.

When I first came to Congress, my next-door neighbor was the Senator, Congressman at the time, and he was from the right district with Little Debbies, and he always brought that to the office, but it also brought a lot of mice too, so I appreciate all that.

You know, when you look at this portrait, it is beautiful, and this portrait will hang in here and people will wonder what the story behind it is. They will know that he was the Chair of the Committee. They will know he loved Suzanne. But what will it really tell? I want to tell you the story I will tell.

When I came here, I served on this committee. It wasn't as nice as here. I was way out front. I think I had a folding chair, but I was drawn to Mike from the very beginning because of integrity. I watched that he prepared for his committees more thoroughly than anyone could imagine. I watched that he took me under his wing, not that I was from California, but he understood my district was more like Texas and like his than almost any other in the country.

But I got put on another committee with him. It was over at the NRCC. I was a freshman. I remember Boehner asking me to serve on this audit committee. There is just two of us. We had just gone into the minority. And the first thing we discovered, we had somebody embezzle from us. And it wasn't because the person let us know, it was because Mike was an accountant and figured it out. And you learn a lot about somebody in a time of crisis like that, how he righted the ship. It wasn't why he came to the House, but he just knew to do the right things.

Then I will tell the story, how this job is not the easiest when it comes to families, but there is always a mentor out there to show you how to do it. As much as Suzanne as it is Mike, God had a plan for both of you to put you together. And what I love about it is you are not afraid to share that and tell it, and that is so helpful to so many of us.

The other thing that many of us should know, yeah, this committee is always known to be bipartisan, but it is easier to go the other way. It is probably more difficult for Mike than anybody else in the country. You see, his district is conservative, but it is probably the most conservative next to Mac's.

So it would be easier to just say no. It would be easier just to blame, but he always made the right decision and a tough decision, because he believed in being a legislator. He knew his responsibility to go home that the cable industry would say something much different, so he wouldn't go home just to appease his constituency. He would go home to show them that he was a leader, that he made the right decision and he wasn't fearful to explain it to them if they didn't understand at first.

And the part that I will remember the most, as a whip, the farm bill is the hardest thing to pass. I learned it the hard way because it failed the first time I was whip. Mike was not chair then, but he was Chairman in waiting, and he was an integral part of making—bring it back off the ground.

But I remember this one issue, and I won't bring what the issue was, but it was one that we needed help with. And they had to make a decision. It is one of those decisions in leadership that you kind of regret at the time, and we did something that probably wasn't right, but we made a promise to Ag that we would correct it.

I remember walking into this room. It wasn't Mike by himself, but it was then the Ranking Member. And I was so impressed that it wasn't talking to one side of the Committee, I was talking to the Committee of the whole, because what they cared about was the food that America made. What they cared about was the ability of the farmers to do it and the next generation. And they spoke with one voice. And because they held together, we were able to right that ship.

So, yes, the painting is going to hang a long time, but your legacy is going to be so much more. And that will just be my story, but there will be so many of those stories that will be told about you.

Yes, I was sad when you told me you were leaving, but you earned the right to do it. Because you may not be in these halls, but I promise you, your character, your integrity will live on through so many of us that have either watched how you carried yourself or how we listened to you or how you led us. So congratulations on a job well done. Thank you.

[Applause.]

Mr. BOOZMAN. Next, we are going to hear from the Speaker of the House. We are so pleased that she is here to accept the portrait and we do very much appreciate that.

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE NANCY PELOSI

SPEAKER, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Speaker PELOSI. Thank you very much, Senator. It is always wonderful to be in this room because it does have a spirit of bipartisanship. As I came in, I was recalling some occasions when we have all come together here when Mr. Chairman Peterson was leading a bipartisan ensemble called, what, the Second Amendment up here. And, of course, it is a beautiful room, and others have poached on it in order to celebrate one thing or another. But as long as we could hear the Second Amendment band, nobody cared about anything else.

The first time I came to an unveiling of the Chair of the Agriculture Committee was for Tom Foley. So I turned around to Mr. Peterson and I said, where is Tom Foley's picture? He said, well, that was a while ago. He is in the other room.

So I know, Pat Roberts, Senator, it's an honor to have you back over here always. Your picture is right there. May it stay there. Just keep coming over and checking on it.

We know that this is a special occasion, the unveiling of the portrait of the Chairman of the Agriculture Committee. Isn't it a beautiful painting? Isn't it perfect? And how clever of him to have Suzanne in the picture. We love that. That is pretty nice.

So, Suzanne, to you and to Erin who is here, your son Erin—lovely to see you, Erin—and to the rest, Mike's other children and grandchildren who are watching virtually, I can't wait till you can come here

to see this actually because it is quite a lovely likeness of our wonderful Chairman.

So we celebrate the unveiling of this portrait and your 15 years serving Texas, 11th District, Odessa and Midland. And, again, it is fitting that this portrait will oversee the activities in the Agriculture Committee, as I see Mr. Collin Peterson back here behind the screen here but, nonetheless, looking over the work. And I know that you work together.

And, Mr. Leader, I would just say, the one thing about the votes on the farm bill, how about when we had to override the veto a couple times in 1 year? But we did that in a very bipartisan way. That is the only way you can override a veto.

The distinguished Secretary mentioned traveling to your district and seeing how you were revered there. I would want to recall traveling with you to Normandy and to the Battle of the Bulge and to see your patriotism there. Thank you for being part of that in such a substantial way and bringing your stature as a leader in the Congress to those trips to say thank you to our veterans for their service to our country.

So as Chair of the Ag Committee, as patriot in the Congress, thank you for your leadership, thank you for your service. Congratulations on this wonderful portrait. And as Speaker, it is my honor to accept it, the portrait, into the House collection officially. Congratulations. Thank you.

[Applause.]

Mr. BOOZMAN. Thank you, Madam Speaker, so much. Again, thank you for being here.

In a second, Mike is going to come up and talk to us a little bit, but Kevin mentioned the farm bill, the Speaker mentioned the farm bill, and that is so, so very difficult. Pat Roberts is over here, he and Senator Stabenow, and then Collin, and you guys just did such a great job. I think we had a record number of votes in the Senate, and I understand, you know, these things are just so, so very difficult.

The other thing that I think we did a really good job with you all leading the charge, Mike was really educating our Members about how important this was, you know, the difficulty that our farm community was in then and even more difficulty now. We do appreciate that.

Mike, would you like to come up?

I was thinking—I have got to needle him a little bit. Mike and I played college football, and I was looking at that picture, and I was just thinking, what would his buddies think from back in the old days if they saw the former Chairman, his picture on the wall in here. So, again, you can be very, very proud.

ADDRESS BY THE HONORABLE K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

Mr. CONAWAY. Well, first off, thank you for the standing ovation. Appreciate that. It is always appreciated.

Madam Speaker, Leader, Sonny, Collin, thank you very much, Pat. Pat's the only man on the face of the Earth who has ever chaired this committee and the similar committee in the Senate. He trained here to do the good job he did in the Senate, but, Pat, thank you for being here as well.

Thanks, everyone, for being here. The rest of my family is online watching this thing. I want to quickly say thank you to Brit, who just had a baby son earlier this morning in Kansas City, and Brooke and my team for putting all this together today, getting everybody into the building and all those kind of things. It is a little odd these days trying to get folks in for this thing, so I want to thank those folks for that.

I want to thank the artist who did this. Snake—or Erin—I call him Snake. It is a nickname, but Erin, the Reverend Erin Conaway, told me that he was at an unveiling like this in which, when the artist talked a long time about it, they dropped the curtain and it was dead silent. And it began with just kind of pregnant clapping, because the man whose portrait it was bore no resemblance to the portrait whatsoever. And so I was a little nervous that that would be the case, but Robert Anderson has done a great job, and I want to thank him for that. The donors for the portrait on the back of the program, thank you for that as well.

You know, we use the words “thank you” across an incredible spectrum of emotions. Thank you for opening the door, thank you for picking up something I dropped. This is all the way at the other end of that spectrum. I can't tell you thank you enough with the most sincerity, the deepest part of my heart, for everything that has gotten me to this point.

Suzanne and I started this—somebody on my team just won a pot to say how long this would take. We started in December 2002 on this journey, and it has been an incredible experience and one that is obviously the highlight of my professional career. I had a terrific career as a CPA before I got here, but this work that I have done the last 16 years has been stunningly gratifying and the highlight of my professional career.

As we said, we have got Erin here today, and Suzanne. I typically describe myself as Suzanne Conaway's husband, because that is the deal. And I could not have done what I have done and succeeded the way I have succeeded without her steadfast, loving support throughout all of this.

She is the author of some 8,500 handwritten thank-you notes over the last 18 years. And so she wrote every donor, finally decided that might get a little tedious so she quit writing the ones up here, but she

wrote everybody at home a thank-you note. And so I would not be here today without her love and support and faithfulness to this job. And so thank you, sweetheart, love of my life.

And people have asked me around the room this afternoon what I am going to do next. And she made it abundantly clear that she married me for life, not lunch, and that next year, about 9 o'clock every day I need to vacate the premises and about 4 o'clock I am welcome back, that she does not need me supervising her routine on a daily basis, and so I will be doing something.

As mentioned, Suzanne and I have a terrific family. We have four children. They all have spouses. We have seven grandchildren, and they are just terrific across the board, all of them successful in their own way, and we love them dearly.

My seven grandchildren, though, I have missed—as the Members know, I have missed 16 years of their life doing the job that I love. I regret it in a sense, but I chose to serve, knowing that that would be the case, and, yeah, so, anyway, it is—got to run for family.

The constituents in District 11, Sonny, there are a couple of them that don't revere me. Just go to my Facebook page from time to time and you will see those folks showing up. But, you know, they have elected me eight times.

When you vote for somebody for a job, you basically tell them, I trust you. I trust you to go do that job, take that responsibility, honor the trust that we have done, and that is what I have tried to do for 16 years. And so the folks in District 11 have made this happen over and over again, and I can't thank them enough for their steadfast support throughout all of this.

No Member gets to do what I have been able to do, to have this honor, get to this point by themselves. It simply doesn't happen. There are hundreds and hundreds of people across District 11, many of them, and everyone in this room today, that have had a piece of me getting to this point. I would not be here without each and every one of you that are there.

The folks on my personal staff, many of them in the room as well, I have had the best staff you can imagine. The folks back home are chiefly responsible for me getting 80 percent of the vote each time because of the great constituent service work they have done. I have been blessed with them across that spectrum.

My professional staff here has been topnotch. I have relatively low turnover, and I have been blessed by that. Each and every one of them contributed mightily across the entire spectrum.

Committee staff, I also chaired the Ethics Committee. It will surprise you that we don't do this for the Ethics Committee. There is not a big constituency for the House Ethics Committee, but I had staff there. I am blessed to serve on the Intel Committee for a long time and the

staff there, and then my Ag Committee staff here, and the farm bill that everybody has talked about so far.

We would not have gotten as good a farm bill as we got without the stunningly good, hard work that my team put in. I can't name them all because we would be here for a long, long time, but no one in this room but the people who did it and the leadership of that team know the number of hours they put in, the number of things that they missed with their family, making sure that we are trying to get that job done.

It spanned to Thanksgiving. I think most of them took Thanksgiving lunch off. Several of them came back after Thanksgiving during the day to come back up here to keep pushing on that to try to get to that 369 votes that we got, a record in the House.

It would have been 371, but Vicky was home taking care of her mom that passed away. And then one of our good colleagues was wandering around the Senate, had just missed the vote, who later told me—one of my Texas colleagues, who later told me that he would have voted for it.

But 369, but we got a record in the House, John, as well as a record in the Senate. That, again, did not happen by itself. A stunning amount of work went into getting that there across that board. I look around the room and I see the folks from the ag groups, the professionals in the ag groups as well as the individual, you know, real people from back home ag groups.

When I started this job in 2005, as a CPA, I had done a lot of folks' tax returns. And, Collin, I did not tell anybody that I had never prepared a schedule F. Schedule F is the form that farmers use to file their tax return with, and so I knew so little about the farming business that I had never done a schedule F for any of my clients.

And so a tremendous amount of trust from those folks that I could get 10 years later to start the process of doing that, 4 years of earning this portrait. But they trusted me to get it done, and then they shepherded me every step of the way. They answered my terrible questions. They helped me through the mistakes I was making. They helped me understand the business to know that I could get to the point where my colleagues would trust me to be able to chair this committee.

You know, Kevin mentioned the things that I'd done. You know, Kevin has been a terrific leader on the Republican side and is responsible for a lot of the things I have been able to do throughout this entire process.

But I look around and I see the eyes of everybody in here that has had a good part—a big piece. I see former chiefs of staff. I see a former chief of staff who is a Member. I see others who just have made an invaluable contribution to what I got to do, to the bragging that I have been able to—that you are doing for me today.

Back home, people tell me all the time, well, it is great that you did X, Y, or Z on the constituent service work. My colleagues know that we don't do that, but our team does it. It is great to be a Member because you have got a great team back home that does good stuff and then we get credit. So it is wonderful to be us.

But I really can't thank everybody enough, often enough and sincerely enough for all the things that you have done on my behalf to get us to this point. And thank each and every one of you for being here today. I know it was a hassle, unusual hassle.

Some of you, though, this is the first time you have been back since March or April and you are kind of excited to be back in the buildings and that kind of stuff. I understand that. Pat Roberts is here as well, as mentioned. But, thanks, everybody for everything you have done. I would not be here today left to my own devices, left to my own skills but for that.

And I also want to thank—you know, the Lord has—people ask me why I did this job. There is a verse in Luke 12:48 that says “to whom much is given, much is required.” God blessed me with a little bit of talent and a great deal of terrific life experiences, but He has also blessed me immeasurably with people in this room, friends all over District 11 that you are here representing that have made our lives so much richer than it would have otherwise been.

The friendships and the relationships we have built through the fights, through the struggles, are invaluable, and I will take them with me forever. I may leave these halls, but you all will never leave my heart. And so I can't say it any more sincerely, thank you so very, very much for this, this great honor. Thank you very much.

[Applause.]

Mr. BOOZMAN. Thank you, Mike.

I think that concludes our program. We have got a bunch of brownies back there. I have already got mine. I was afraid that you all would get them all, so let's eat up and visit. And, again, congratulations, Mike and Suzanne. This is a wonderful portrait.

[Whereupon, the ceremony was concluded.]



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE

PORTRAIT UNVEILING

& RETIREMENT CELEBRATION OF

Chairman
R. Michael Conaway

HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE ROOM
1300 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2020
3:30PM - 5:00PM

RSVP

Brittney@ethosadvisorsllc.com or (202) 262-5838

*THIS EVENT IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH COVID-19 GUIDELINES.

special recognition

American Association of Crop Insurers
American Crystal Sugar Company
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
American Sheep Industry Association
Bart & Karalyn Fischer
Bayer
Blue Diamond Growers
California Cotton Ginners And Growers Associations
CME Group
Combest, Sell & Associates, LLC
Corn Refiners Association
Cornerstone Government Affairs
Cotton Producers of Missouri
Cottonseed and Feed Association
Deloitte LLP
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Farm Credit Council
Farmer Mac
Florida Sugar Cane League/Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers
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International Dairy Foods Association
Kara, Brian, Emily Kate & Conally Bell
Kody & Lauren Bessent
Larry Meyers
Linda and L.G. Raun
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National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council of America
National Cottonseed Products Association
National Potato Council
North Carolina Cotton Producers Association
Oklahoma Cotton Council
Panhndle Peanut Growers Association
Plains Cotton Cooperative Association
Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.
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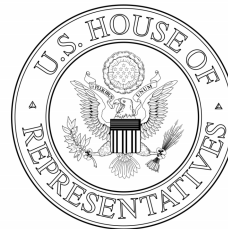
IT HAS BEEN AN IMMENSE HONOR TO REPRESENT THE PEOPLE OF THE
11TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS IN CONGRESS FOR THE LAST 16 YEARS.
HARDWORKING, HONEST, FAITHFUL, THESE PEOPLE ARE THE SALT OF
THE EARTH AND I AM PROUD TO HAVE SERVED THEM.

AS A MEMBER AND THEN AS CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURE, I WAS ABLE TO TRAVEL ALL OVER THE COUNTRY
WITNESSING THE HARD WORK OF AMERICANS TO FEED, CLOTHE, AND
FUEL THE WORLD. I WAS HUMBLLED BY THAT EXPERIENCE AND USED IT
TO HELP FIGHT FOR AMERICA'S FARMERS, RANCHERS AND THE ENTIRE
AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY IN THE DECISIONS THAT AFFECT THEIR LIVES
AND FUTURE GENERATIONS. THANK YOU FOR ACCEPTING ME AS ONE
OF YOUR OWN. I WILL NOT FORGET IT.

TO ALL MY FELLOW MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND SUPPORTERS, IT WAS
A PLEASURE TO WORK AND STAND WITH YOU ADVOCATING FOR
PRIORITIES TO BETTER THE LIVES OF MY CONSTITUENTS AND
ALL AMERICANS. TO MY CURRENT AND FORMER STAFF, I AM PROUD
OF YOU AND THE WORK WE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER.
TO MY WIFE SUZANNE AND MY ENTIRE FAMILY, YOUR FAITH
AND ENCOURAGEMENT HAS BEEN SUCH A BLESSING TO ME.
I LOOK FORWARD TO WHAT LIES AHEAD IN THE YEARS TO COME.

MY SINCEREST GRATITUDE,

K. Michael Conaway



A CEREMONY FOR THE UNVEILING
OF THE PORTRAIT OF

Chairman
K. Michael Conaway

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2015 - 2019

THREE-THIRTY IN THE AFTERNOON
TUESDAY THE FIFTEENTH OF SEPTEMBER
TWO THOUSANDS AND TWENTY
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Washington, D.C.

THE UNVEILING OF THE OFFICIAL PORTRAIT OF
THE HONORABLE K. MICHAEL CONAWAY, CHAIRMAN
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
2015-2019

WELCOME

The Honorable Collin Peterson

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

The Honorable John Boozman

INVOCATION

The Honorable Tim Walberg

REMARKS

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue

The Honorable John Boozman

UNVEILING OF THE PORTRAIT

The Honorable K. Michael Conaway and Suzanne Conaway

ACCEPTANCE OF THE PORTRAIT

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy

Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi

Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives

RESPONSE

The Honorable K. Michael Conaway

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